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THE RECENT STRIKE.

The sympathies of the public have been with the cause of the workmen, who felt themselves compelled to strike for an increase of wages at the smelters in this country. In the first place, their cause appeared to be just. In the second place, they tried all reasonable means to obtain what they demanded. In the third place, they showed no disposition to interfere with men who chose to work for prices that they regarded. And in the next place they refrained from violence and threats and the infraction of law in any way.

All this is highly gratifying. But it is to be regretted that the strike occurred, because it does not appear to have accomplished anything satisfactory to the workmen or to their families. It was evidently undertaken without sufficient organization or backing, and with a wrong idea as to the disposition and ability of the employers to resist their claims.

It is astonishing and painful to most people that laborers, in the kind of work required at the smelters, are only paid \$1.40 a day, having to board themselves. How can a man with a family to provide for manage to keep his head above water on such a stipend? Considering the rise in the cost of living, it seems that the companies who have in their own hands the regulation of prices for smelting ores, might make a reasonable advance in wages so as to give their workmen a chance to live decently.

No one thinks that capitalists should be expected to conduct business at a loss, or without a fair interest on their investments. But the general opinion is that the grievance of the strikers at Murray was well founded, if not well presented and carried to a successful issue.

It is hoped that the merits of this hard case will be perceived and recognized by the directors of the companies, and if they will now voluntarily make a reasonable advance in the wages of their employees, we believe they will not only gain the good will of the general public, but the gratitude of the sturdy workmen, who will serve them better for the change, and of their families, many of whom are on the verge of starvation, and all in the throes of discontent and resentment, at what they can not help regarding as "oppression of the hiring in his wages."

THE PUERTO RICAN BILL.

To the Editor:
What substantial constitutional right or privilege possessed by the people of Arizona, New Mexico or Oklahoma, is withheld from the people of Puerto Rico by the act of Congress which has just been passed? The bill provides for United States and local courts, the former of which at least will have the same jurisdiction as any other United States district and circuit courts. This includes the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, trial by jury, no prosecution for felony except upon presentment or indictment by a grand jury, and the right of the accused to be confronted with his witnesses and of trial by a jury of the vicinage. It includes necessarily the right of free speech, of exemption from search, seizure, or punishment for crime except upon due conviction, and secure every man against being deprived of life, liberty and property without due process of law.

The only difference between the government provided for Puerto Rico, and the government of the United States, is that the upper branch of the legislature in Puerto Rico is to be appointed by the President instead of being elected by the people, and this is a distinction rather than a difference, for any law passed by the Arizona legislature may be vetoed by the governor or annulled by Congress. The representative of Arizona in Congress is called a delegate and receives \$5,000 a year; the representative of Puerto Rico will be called a commissioner and receive the same salary, and possess the same privileges.

There is, however, an essential difference in the system of revenue and taxation, but it is a difference that is all in favor of the people of Puerto Rico, and one which they will probably relinquish with reluctance in 1902. In order to provide revenue for the support of local government, in the island, and in lieu of land, property, income, or license taxes, a revenue duty of less than one-sixth of that imposed upon foreign importations is levied upon goods coming to the United States from Puerto Rico, or going into Puerto Rico from the United States. This will secure the trade of the island for American goods, and the import duty on Puerto Rican productions is really in the nature of a light export tax. It will fall principally upon tobacco and sugar, and its practical effect will be to place about one-half of the entire burden of taxation upon the sugar and tobacco growers. If Utah were a Territory and Congress should abolish all territorial and municipal taxes, and levy a light tax upon the lead, silver, copper, wool, sugar, cattle and other products sent out of the State, it might work a great hardship upon the smelters, and the sheep and cattle men, but such a law would be very popular with farmers, real estate proprietors, mechanics and traders, who would escape taxation altogether.

It is not asserted that the law to provide revenue for the government of Puerto Rico is correct in principle, or can be commended as other than a temporary measure of expediency, when it is denounced as a law which oppresses the people of our new West Indian possession, it is only fair to consider it fairly in its practical aspects, and not pieces about some profitless abstraction.

It looks as if in the case of Puerto Rico the Constitution has followed the flag very closely, and as if the Puerto Ricans instead of having taxation without representation, were about to enjoy representation without taxation.

THOMAS FITCH.
Salt Lake City, April 12, 1900.
The Deseret News, in giving place to the foregoing, neither disputes nor endorses the statements or arguments it contains on the tariff question. This paper has not entered any complaints against the bill which has just become a law, but simply mentioned some of its provisions and the positions taken by the advocates and opponents of the measure.

What the law really establishes has not been made clear by the press dispatches. The synopsis given on Thursday is upset by the summary received today. When the bill is received in its entirety, as amended by the Senate, adopted by the House and signed by the President, it will be safer to discuss than appears at present.

The constitutional rights and privileges of the Puerto Ricans form a question that is still open to dispute, as it has not been determined, finally, whether the Constitution is actually extended over the new possession or not. But it appears that Puerto Rico, under the civil government now established, will not enjoy as much liberty as is extended by the home Territorial system, just as we stated on Thursday.

The people elect but one House of the Legislature. They have no representation in Congress, not even by a Delegate. The Commissioner whom they may elect is to be received at the departments in Washington, but will not "possess the same privileges," as supposed by Mr. Fitch. He will have no seat or voice in the House of Representatives.

We do not know who has been "flying all to pieces" over a "profitless abstraction," certainly not this paper or any of its correspondents. Mr. Fitch probably alludes to some of the strong antagonists of the bill. The constitutional questions that have been discussed during the debate on the Puerto Rican bill we regard, however, as something more than "profitless abstractions." We notice that so eminent an expounder of the Constitution as ex-Senator George F. Edmunds, has taken strong ground against the proposition that the Constitution does not extend by its own force over Puerto Rico. He contends that the people of that part of our domain are to be treated, "on the basis of absolute civil equality of right and circumstances with the citizens of our States and home Territories." He says: "Congress is the creature of the Constitution and not the reverse," and he argues that if the Constitution was extended over Puerto Rico merely by act of Congress, it would be only a "statutory Constitution and nothing else, and a repeal of the statute would extinguish it."

As to the benefits to the Puerto Ricans of the tariff law now enacted we have nothing to dispute. It provides for only temporary duties on given articles. In two years there is to be absolute free trade. This may be effected just as soon as a local system of taxation is established, rendering the tariff for revenue now imposed unnecessary. The law appears to have been passed for the good of the islanders, and we think it will be found to work in that direction. All the same, the questions involved in the relationship of the new possessions of this country to the Republic of the United States, are certainly of sufficient importance to demand serious consideration.

FOR THE BENEFIT OF INDIANS.

A peculiar kind of philanthropic work is projected by a lady teacher of Santa Fe. She proposes to take some Indian girls into her home and teach them spinning and weaving and such other useful arts as formerly were considered part of housework. Then they will be sent back to their friends, and it is believed they will further teach what they have learned to others. She also proposes to teach them how to take care of vegetable and flower gardens.

It seems to us that this plan of spreading civilization among the aborigines is worthy of consideration by all interested in that work. Indian children have been given a book education and then returned to their own folks. But this has not proved a success. Book learning is of no earthly use among an untutored people amid surroundings where it cannot be used. The effect of this is, that instead of the veneer of education spreading over the rough surface, it is simply rubbed off from where it was applied. A student sent out into wild surroundings where he has no opportunity of practicing what he has been taught, will soon lapse into his natural state and forget most of what he learned at school.

It is different with such useful arts as spinning and weaving, the cultivation of seeds and flowers. All these would be valuable achievements. They would not be forgotten, but find imitators. They would form a stepping stone, in all probability, to higher planes of civilization. All progress from a state of savagery must be gradual. By attempting to climb too high at a time, a fall is sure to follow. The success achieved in Utah with the Indian settlements is chiefly due to the wisdom with which the red men have been gradually led to appreciate the benefits of the cultivation of the soil and the home life.

ZOLA ON WAR.

Emile Zola, in his article in the North American Review on war, sees but little hope for the speedy realization of the dream of the friends of universal peace. Taking a view of the present world situation, he asks: "How, in face of it all, can we believe that war will soon have become a thing of the past?"

The French author feels especially discouraged when he considers the present tendencies of the United States and Great Britain. Nations, he says, that have formerly escaped the madness of Europe, at last seem attacked. This country, he thinks is suffering from a "dangerous inclination to war." It is donning plumes and epaulettes, and will probably be dreaming of possible campaigns and be carried away with the idea of military glory—notions so perilous as to have been responsible for the downfall of nations.

He sees similar symptoms in Great

Britain, and the spectacle he considers terrifying. "If," he asks, "the United States, on the one hand, and England on the other, were to arm all their male citizens, would not the situation become all the more alarming? On the other side of the seas would be found great fortified camps such as we have in Europe; there would be one in England and another in America, and both nations could truly be said to be under arms."

Zola is not the only one who thinks the present outlook is discouraging. Europeans everywhere, groaning under the burdens of militarism, royalism, and autocratic power, have always been looking to this country as their ideal, and the pattern according to which in time, human governments would be moulded. The starry banner was indeed so many stars of hope, indicating a future universal sovereignty of human rights over special privileges. But to a great many the war with Spain appeared to place this country in the same category as the European countries with their war armies and military aspirations. To the friends of peace even the stars of hope seem dimmed by the mists that rise from battlefields and military camps.

But there is no ground for the view of Zola and those he represents in the matter. The Spanish war was not a struggle for conquest. It was, as declared by Congress, purely a conflict in the name of humanity. Zola, himself, though a champion of peace and law, if he should witness the attempt of a ruffian to assassinate a victim, and if he were in a position to prevent the murder, would do so, even if he had to resort to violence for the time being. The principle holds as good between nations as between individuals. The Spanish war, itself, instead of retarding the progress of peace gave new impetus to that movement, by narrowing considerably the sphere of influence of one of the old world military powers.

Zola speaks of a dangerous inclination to war in this country. There may possibly be a small class that is dazzled by military glory, partly because of their innate love for adventure, and partly because of the possibilities in the way of offices that go with the said glory; but the people, as a people, it can be safely said, are as much opposed to militarism as ever. The thousands who have escaped European military oppression are not likely to consent to bending again to the yoke. And the thousands that went, in response to a call in the name of humanity and civilization, to Cuba, or to the Philippines, generally speaking had all the glory they were looking for. The American people today stand, as ever for the conquests of industry, of commerce, of virtue—for the expansion of peace and good will upon earth everywhere. And only pessimism despairs of the triumph of that cause. History teaches us that light often breaks through the densest clouds. On the morning of the Resurrection the triumph of the Prince of Peace was most complete, notwithstanding the previous agony of Calvary. So very often a good cause apparently dies and then rises again to victory. Universal peace is written in the decrees of the Almighty; it is coming with irresistible force to be a fact among the inhabitants of the earth.

GIRLS COMPARED.

An investigation of peculiar interest to the West has been completed by Miss Anna Barr, of the physical training department of the university of Nebraska, and as result it has been announced that the Western woman is physically more perfect than her Eastern sisters. To be more explicit upon a subject of such importance, it has been found that the "girls from the East are flatter chested, flatter headed, lesser in lung capacity and bigger footed than the Western girls."

The measurements were made by Miss Barr upon 1,500 Nebraska girls, but it goes without argument that if the experiment were repeated in Utah, the result would be still more favorable to the West. For physical perfection there is nothing like the valleys of the mountains, with their pure air, pure morals and lofty ideals.

And the truth is that this physical beauty is but an outward expression of the beauty of soul. There is a law according to which that which dwells within will find an expression in the outward form. The sculptor no more faithfully carves his ideal in the marble than does the indwelling spirit stamp its image upon the walls of the home in which it dwells. Sorrow, joy, passions, happiness, all leave their peculiar traces. If the heart is pure, the faith strong, and the mind bent in submission to divine will, the tent in which such a personality lives will show it, just as the surroundings of a home give a fair index to the character of the inhabitants thereof.

Miss Anna Barr has paid a great compliment to the Western woman, and found that the idea of the West as "wild and woolly" is entirely erroneous. Wildness must be looked for where "flat heads" and other deformities prevail.

The United States has 65,555 soldiers in the Philippines. It is quite a peace proposition to keep so many fighting men in fair good order.

The broom corn being imported from Europe is said to be greatly inferior to that raised in this country. That being the case, it is not likely to make a clean sweep of the market.

It will be especially interesting to the Utah National Guard to learn that the government allowance to the militia of the several States is to be raised from \$400,000 per year to \$1,000,000.

Dr. Gregory says "The Presbyterian church needs a new and simple creed." If he were to recognize his denomination's creed in Utah he might substitute "Christian" for "simple," as here its "confession of faith" is substantially "anything to beat the 'Mormons'."

The Territory of Puerto Rico is to have a Commissioner at Washington instead of a Delegate in Congress. The commissioner ought to stand a better chance of being listened to by the state department, where there are compar-

tively few persons to see in order to secure a hearing, than in the House of Representatives where a Delegate without a vote does not command very much legislative influence.

The United States does not seem to be meeting with much success in purchasing coal stations around the Isthmus. It ought not to take much to purchase the whole country, if the real desire of the masses of the people were considered.

The Nicaragua canal bill seems to be hung up so far as becoming a law this year is concerned. It is announced from Washington that it will be allowed to pass one branch of Congress, for political purposes, but there it must rest pending further developments.

The Sultan would have a great time in an English-speaking nation, if he were to have sway for a little while among political writers. He has just ordered into exile a distinguished Turkish author because the latter wrote an article displeasing to the Moslem ruler.

Territorial governors have appreciated very much since the Hispano-American war. The gubernatorial incumbent in Puerto Rico is to be paid \$5,000 a year, while in the western Territories of the United States the salary is less than one-half of that amount.

It is said that Chinese are coming into California by thousands, under the claim of being native-born Americans. No doubt the ways of the "heavenly Chinese" are peculiar enough, but it would seem that officials of the Golden State ports are worked a little peculiarly too, to allow such an evasion of law.

Another young woman in San Francisco attempted, this morning, to kill herself. It is a little remarkable how all these would-be self-murderers are described by reporters as "handsome" or "talented," no matter how homely or stupid they may be. Possibly the reason is that crime is coming to be very attractive nowadays.

The stories about Capt. Reichmann, American military attaché in the Transvaal, actively engaging in assisting the Boers, are now shown to be false. Instead of helping Boers against British, he attended strictly to his own affairs, and when another military attaché was hit while watching the fight, gave him the humane attention expected from an American officer.

Captain Tilley, U. S. A., says Pago-Pago, Samoa, is a better harbor than Apia. The reason he gives appears to be sound. At Apia a vessel has to go into the storm to get out of its dangers, while at Pago-Pago there is a reasonable hope that a vessel can keep aloft in the harbor during heavy weather. There is another point, too—the calling of American steamers at Pago-Pago instead of at the German port would give to the former a prestige and commerce that should not fail to interest those whose preference is for American interests.

DELAGOA BAY AWARD.

Philadelphia Record.
The sum awarded is a little more than \$3,000,000. The extreme delay in making the award and the smallness of the sum awarded are the occasion of very unfavorable comment. Such results are calculated to bring international arbitration into disfavor.

Philadelphia Telegraph.

After an unconscionable delay the three Swiss jurists to whom were referred the Delagoa Bay railway claims against Portugal have made their award, in terms which have excited universal disgust in England and will not be favorably received by such Americans as have direct personal interest in the matter.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The arbitrators have seemingly accepted without modification the original Portuguese contention, that only the actual amount expended in the railway construction was due, with the value of the conceded property before it had been enhanced by the railway. The award was therefore \$3,022,500, with interest at 5 per cent from June 25, 1889, to the day of payment, or in round figures about \$4,000,000. Portugal will pay the money and so prevent the railway and the port passing into the hands of Great Britain in settlement of the judgment.

Springfield Republican.

It is probable that the people of arbitration will survive this "deadly blow." For, speaking seriously, there is no reason to think that the Swiss arbitrators have acted in other than an impartial and high-minded manner. The fact that the delay in the award, announcing the award, yet the peculiar political conditions in South Africa fully warranted deliberation. The possession of Delagoa Bay has been coveted for twenty years by England and never more eagerly than since the outbreak of the present Boer war. Now that award has been made, the cry goes up from sources which have no possible financial interest in the distribution of the indemnity that the amount is far too small.

Boston Herald.

The English government would, no doubt, have been better pleased if the award had been so large as to seriously inconvenience the Portuguese government, because, in that event, it would have been possible for the authorities at London to propose to pay the claim themselves, and thus relieve Portugal of a demand which she might not be able to meet, on the understanding that the railway, the territory through which it runs and Delagoa Bay should pass under the control of England. This would give to the latter an easy means of approaching Pretoria, and would, at the same time, seal up against the Boers their one neutral access to the outer world. We imagine, with the award as it stands, that the government at Lisbon will have little difficulty in meeting the financial demands made.

Boston Transcript.

The storm of indignation which rises today in the British press at the inadequacy of the award does not entirely lie in the fact that most of the members of the Delagoa Bay railroad company were English citizens. Recently there have been strong rumors that in case the Portuguese government was unable to pay the amount of the award, Great Britain would become responsible for the entire debt which Portugal had assumed in the matter, receiving Delagoa Bay in return, by virtue of a secret agreement between Great Britain, Portugal and Germany. The strategic importance of Delagoa Bay to the English at this time had given hope in the public mind that the rumor was true, although it was denied by the Portuguese authorities and Mr. Balfour.

Chicago Record.

Since 1899 an arbitration commission has had the Delagoa Bay railroad case under consideration. Previous to that year a railroad company had been



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formed for the purpose of building a railroad from Lourenco Marques, on Delagoa Bay, to a point on the Transvaal border. At this point connections were to be made with the railroad leading thence to Pretoria. The company, which obtained the grant from Portugal, was headed by an American, but the needed capital was raised in London. After a long delay and an alleged failure to construct the railroad, the Portuguese government declared the company's franchise forfeited. The government itself built the railroad and since its completion has been operating it. Growing out of this seizure of the grant arose the claims upon which the arbitration commission has just passed.

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